

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE 8/25/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Debra Vallely 781-4082	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution authorizing the District Attorney to sign a renewal agreement (Clerk's Filed) with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) in the amount of \$202,274 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2015-2016. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve and direct the Chair to sign a resolution authorizing the District Attorney to sign, on behalf of the Board, a renewal grant agreement dated July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, between the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the County of San Luis Obispo, including any extensions and amendments thereof.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Cal OES	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$202,274.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$202,274.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: July 8, 2014	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney / Debra Vallely 781-4082

DATE: 8/25/2015

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution authorizing the District Attorney to sign a renewal agreement (Clerk's Filed) with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) in the amount of \$202,274 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2015-2016. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve and direct the Chair to sign a resolution authorizing the District Attorney to sign, on behalf of the Board, a renewal grant agreement dated July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, between the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the County of San Luis Obispo, including any extensions and amendments thereof.

DISCUSSION

The recommended action will authorize the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Program to receive funds from the State of California in the amount of \$202,274 in FY 2015-16. The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment that victims and witnesses may experience following a crime by providing crisis and support services to all types of victims. Victim/Witness Assistance Program activities and services are mandated by and outlined in Penal Code Section §13835.5. Since 1984, our County Board of Supervisors has recognized the District Attorney's Office as the County agency designated to provide comprehensive crime victim and witness services to all types of victims through its Victim/Witness Assistance Division and has contracted with the State for this purpose through annual grants for Victim/Witness Assistance Programs.

This grant award for \$202,274 is an increase from last year's grant allocation of \$193,424. No County match is required as the match is met by State funds allocated for that purpose. This grant funds the salary and partial benefits of 1.0 FTE Senior Victim/Witness Coordinator (Victim/Witness Assistant Director) and 2.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator II positions.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement for form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under the terms of this grant, \$202,274 is available for FY 2015-16. The grant award for FY 2014-15 was \$193,424. There is no County match required. These funds were included in the adopted budget for FY 2015-16.

RESULTS

This Cal OES grant will enable the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division to achieve its County department goals, including:

- 1) Reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members, and the community.

Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinators are funded to contact victims, assess their needs, offer services designed to help victims navigate the criminal justice system, and to help them recover from the effects of crime to the extent possible. During FY 2014-15, 6,485 new victims of crime were contacted and assisted with a wide range of services. This figure does not include victims served under the Cal OES Underserved Victim (UV) Program, which targets victims with disabilities, elder and dependent adult victims of crime. Also during FY 2014-15, Victim/Witness staff contacted 87% of victims in crimes against persons cases charged by the District Attorney within an average of an 8 day target for outreach. During FY 2013-14 the staff contacted 85% of victims within the 8 day target for outreach. Beginning in FY 2014-15 every effort was made to make victim contact within 24 to 72 hours upon notification of the crime. Victim/Witness advocates were markedly successful as 81% of victims were contacted within 72 hours.

- 2) To increase the criminal justice efficiency response to crime victims and witnesses.

Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinators confirm the victims' and witnesses' receipt of mailed subpoenas, thereby helping to ensure their cooperation with the criminal justice system and reducing expenses by saving law enforcement the time and expense required to personally serve subpoenas. We estimate continued savings of over \$300,000 per year during FY 2014-15 by confirming subpoenas that otherwise would require personal service by the Sheriff's Civil Division. For FY 2014-15, 97% of civilian witnesses who received mailed subpoenas were contacted by Victim/Witness staff and receipt of their subpoenas was confirmed. Due to the unavailability of correct addresses for all witnesses, 100% confirmation of mailed subpoenas is not achievable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Contract with Cal OES for Victim Witness Assistance Center (Clerk's Filed)